

**THE SALT LAKE HERALD**  
Published Every Day in the Year  
BY THE HERALD COMPANY

**Terms of Subscription:**  
DAILY AND SUNDAY—One month, \$3.00; three months, \$8.00; six months, \$15.00; one year, \$28.00.  
SUNDAY—One year, \$2.00.  
Semi-Weekly—One year, \$10.00.  
Single Copies, 10 cents.  
Eastern Office: W. J. McGowan, 150 Nassau St., New York; N. Washington St., Chicago.  
Subscribers wishing address of paper changed must give former as well as present address.  
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New York—Waldorf-Astoria; Imperial.  
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**DEATH OF MRS. HODGE.**

MRS. AURORA HODGE has gone to answer before a higher bar for the sins of which she was guilty on this earth. Who dare say the Great Judge will not be more merciful toward this erring woman than earthly judges would have been? She had no draw for her veil of charity that has so often been drawn for men who have sinned and suffered? And if ever mortal woman had excuse for being bad that woman was Aurora Hodge.

Her whole life story was a series of tragedies. Orphaned and thrown on her own resources, she had a child, she was permitted to choose her own companions, her own environment at an age when most girls are under the watchful, loving care of their mothers. It was not inevitable that this girl should go astray, but it was natural. Her ideas of honor could not be clearly defined as in the case of a vast majority of her more fortunate sisters; her perception of right and wrong was almost necessarily blurred.

While still but a child in years she contracted a marriage that was not a happy one. For this the woman whose lips are sealed forever now may have been as much to blame as her husband. Of that we have now no desire to speak. But it does seem that he might have made her lot happier, he might have directed her life lines into more pleasant paths. He didn't, and from the unhappy culmination of her marriage until the crowning infamy of her life, the murder of the peddler, Ryan, Mrs. Hodge's path was filled with sorrow and woe and hardship.

It is entirely probable that the mystery of the Ryan murder will never be cleared away. People who are familiar with the case decline to believe that Mrs. Hodge had no accomplice. She was a weak, frail woman, wholly incapable, physically, of killing Ryan and then tying his body up with ropes or of tying him up and then killing him. If the truth could be gotten at it would be found that some scoundrel of a man, some scoundrel too base for words, plotted the murder with the woman and assisted her in carrying it out.

So far as human knowledge goes, though, the final chapter in the Ryan murder will be completed when the grave closes over the body of Aurora Hodge.

**ROOSEVELT PRESTIGE WANES.**

DEMOCRATIC newspapers throughout the country are taking heart of grace over the prospects for next year's campaign. Every day they are seeing something that encourages them to believe the Democrats have more than a good chance to elect the next president of the United States. The one thing none of them say is to crystallize sentiment in favor of some good strong man, who can unite all the elements of the party. In the New York Times of recent date is an editorial from which the following excerpt is taken:

"Has President Roosevelt lost political strength in the west? Undoubtedly he has lost strength in the east. New England's enthusiasm for him seems to have taken on a wintry quality. That he has lost in New York is plain to everybody who listens to the speech of the people. Unless there is a marked change in the dispositions of voters he will not carry this state next fall—should he be nominated. Governor Odell, now the recognized Republican leader, is credited with the intention of reorganizing the party in this city. Reorganization implies displacement. Displacement produces soreness, and that yields factional differences. \* \* \* A uniting Democratic candidate will carry New York against Mr. Roosevelt."

We shall attempt to answer the question propounded by the Times. In our opinion, President Roosevelt has lost strength in the west. Time was when no other candidate for the presidency was talked of or thought of in the important country by the politicians of Mr. Roosevelt's faith. Time was when Mr. Roosevelt commanded so much admiration from so many young Democrats that plenty of old-line party men openly expressed the belief that he would surely be nominated and elected next year.

Today it is not entirely certain that Mr. Roosevelt will have all of the western delegations to the next Republican national convention. He certainly will not have all of them if a candidate of great strength is developed. As between Senator Hanna and Mr. Roosevelt it is probable that the majority of western delegates would align themselves with the president, but even this is by no means certain. It is still too early to prophesy as to the complexion of the Utah delegation.

At the state convention that nominated Congressman Howell a year ago the Roosevelt administration was endorsed and, so far as it could, the congressional convention pledged the convention which is to nominate national convention delegates, to name Roosevelt men. If occasion should arise, there will be plenty in the convention next year to point out the absurdity of last year's attempted pledge.

Neither of Utah's senators has much occasion to be friendly to Mr. Roosevelt. Just now Senator Kearns stands well with the executive, but if it ever comes to a showdown between Roosevelt and Hanna, Senator Kearns will probably be found on the Hanna side. Senator Smoot has no reason at all for being

fond of the president. The latter tried to defeat Senator Smoot for the position he now holds, a fact which the junior senator is not likely to forget nor forgive.

**OLD PRINCIPLE AFFIRMED.**

THE APPELLATE DIVISION of the supreme court of New York has just handed down a decision that will be of interest to the sporting fraternity. It is to the effect that a man who loses money on a horse race may sue the bookmaker who won his money and recover the full amount. The decision is not entirely one-sided, however. The court holds that the bookmaker also has standing in court. He, too, may sue and recover money that is won from him by a better. There is nothing particularly new about the decision except so far as it applies to horse race gambling.

It is a well known rule of law that money which is taken without a fair equivalent being returned for it cannot be retained by the man who gets it if the loser goes into court and seeks to recover. The decision will have but little effect on the "business" of gambling. Not one man in a thousand who loses money on a horse race or any other form of gambling ever seeks the aid of a court toward its recovery. Certainly any so-called honest gambler never tries to recover from a patron money won over a table or from a book, except by inducing the patron to continue gambling, in which event he is sure to get his money back.

An expert has figured that every man, other than the professional gambler, who plays any game for money, loses. This is true of alleged "friendly" games of poker, where four or five friends sit down for an evening's enjoyment. "But somebody must win," says the thoughtful one. Yes, somebody does win, for the time being, but no matter how often he wins, he comes out loser in the end, just as the man who plays the slot machine comes out loser.

How? We'll say that Jones, Smith, Brown and Robinson play poker together tonight. Jones wins \$10. Immediately he wants to be a "good fellow." Accordingly he spends the \$10 for cigars, drinks and other forms of entertainment that suggest themselves. Tomorrow night the same crowd plays another game of poker and Jones loses \$10. He figures that he is even on the two nights' play. As a matter of fact he is not even. He is just \$10 poorer, because the night before he spent \$10 that he wouldn't have spent if he hadn't won it.

The slot machine is worth a separate paragraph. You say it is impossible to lose much money dropping a nickel at a time into a slot machine that sells cigars. Suppose you play a dollar and win a dollar's worth of cigars. Are you even? No. Because you have bought more cigars than you intended to buy. You give away cigars that you wouldn't have bought and given away if the machine hadn't been there to tempt you. Argued down to the last analysis, the only way to gamble, if you must gamble, is to make a "profession" out of it. Sit on the dealer's side of the table, "the right side," as it is known in the parlance, and buy a lot of slot machines for yourself.

An esteemed morning contemporary thinks \$2,500 a year is too much to pay the mayor of Salt Lake City, and that \$600 a year is too little to pay the council. It seems to think more responsible. It attaches to the office of councilman than to the mayoralty, a point on which we beg to disagree with our contemporary. We agree with it, however, that \$600 a year is too little to pay for councilmen, that is, if they are to be paid any salary at all. And it is entirely too much as an honorarium. However, if councilmen are paid more than \$600 they should be required to give the city their entire time. To pay the members under present conditions \$600 per year each is to overpay them. They work for the city an average of not more than twenty-five hours a month. Thus they are paid at the rate of about \$2 an hour. Not more than 100 salaried men in the state of Utah do anything like so well.

It will be hard for a great many people to believe that "Ellis H. Dowd" is personally in such financial straits as the dispatches indicate. Some of us remember that it was circumstantially reported that Mrs. Dowd, when she left for England a few weeks ago, carried enough money in cash and letters of credit to keep the Dowd family in clover for a long, long time.

The usual order of precedence was reversed by Mrs. Marie Rhodes of Springfield, Ill., the other day. She shot a man with whom she was in love and then killed herself. A few more little happenings like this might have a tendency to discourage men with the habit of killing women.

At Friday's session of the United States senate seventy petitions and memorials were presented. Only sixty-nine of them were against the continuance of Senator Reed Smoot of Utah in the high office he now holds. We don't care to understand how the seventieth got away.

If all the money in the national treasury were paid to the nation's creditors we wouldn't owe but \$325,829,410, according to a recent statement of the public debt. This is a mere trifle, squeezed out of water was recently squeezed out of the United States Steel corporation.

Senator Kearns is coming home for the holidays. We wouldn't advise him to spend any of his time, however, in looking for the pieces of his recent city slate. The fragments are too small to be gathered up.

Now a substantial reduction in the wages of steel foundry employees in the east is announced. It is not accompanied by any announcements of reductions in the prices of food and clothing and fuel.

**The Race Issue.**

(Atlanta Constitution.)

"Day tells me," said Old Sl, "dat de president does intend de race issue agin?"

"Well, shi, ebry man who does raise it yit he's bound to lose. I wouldn't raise it. Sh' yit go tryin' ter make er white man ou'er a nigger. He gwine try ter buy you, sh' yit buy him. You call him mister ou'er and you'll bill er Dick to him from dat on. De nigger's lease ter raise wid er nigger is whar he wurkin' and who's er-feeding him. Dat stumps de nigger on er bill. I ain't seed no white man yet what is my eka!"

"No, shi! Not when him comes to ketchin' an' eatin' 'cossums!"

**IN LIGHTER VEIN**

The Sunnyside Outrage.

May justice overtake with speed the guilty wretch or wretches. Who did the deed that from earth's throat This cry of horror fetters?

Oh, Kishineff and Macedon, Behold your aurels vanish! Oh, Cuba, who has taught this Before we looked the Spanish!

All innocent was she shot down; All full of hope and pride; All weeping she lay and died And died at Sunnyside!

Who is to blame? Ah, would we knew! But sorrow grips us now— Have killed John Gentry's cow!

Mr. Bristow appears to be the teller of the postoffice department.

Gen. Wood may find that his little difficulty with the Moros in the Philippines is but a reconnaissance compared with the fight he has on at Washington.

Lant K. Salsbury's confession may be good for his own soul, but it has failed to bring joy to the souls of the men whose names he has mentioned in connection with the Grand Rapids graft.

No one imagines for a moment that the militiamen were responsible for the presence in Scotland of the beer bottle and silver brimmed hat. Thomas and Kenyon pulled off their William Tell stunt.

Now that the supreme court has held the eight-hour law to be valid it might be a good idea to see that the state officials work the full eight hours each day.

If there is not some trading on the New York exchange, presently the man who completes the press reports will run out of the adjective necessary to describe the situation.

The Salt Lake Baseball association should charge Jack Grim with peonage for sending his players into bondage in the east without proper authority.

Demoli would be justified in stating that this is the hardest strike he has yet struck.

And it's altogether likely Gen. Wood is not more willing to accept the word of Mr. Rubens than Mr. Rubens is to accept the word of Gen. Wood.

Persons being murders to confess should address Chief of Police O'Neill of Chicago, at present the leading depository for confessions. No confession embracing less than five murders will be considered.

The precedent set by the Salt Lake Grand Jury, it will be noted, is being generally disregarded by federal grand juries all over the country.

The announcement that Colombia is thinking of sending troops toward Panama "without a hospital corps, without a commissary department, without means of transportation and without pay" tends to the belief that Colombia does not intend to send troops toward Panama.

The indications are that before Demoli gets through with the Carbon county courts he will be able to appreciate Capt. Dreyfus' emotions.

It is safe to bet that while the nineteen football players were being killed during the present season several times that number of young men died from ailments caused by lack of proper exercise.

It is all right to pray for the expulsion of Smoot, but the good women who have adopted this course are respectfully advised that action by the senate is not guided by prayer to an appreciable extent.

The record for desertions established by Utah recruits will have a tendency to make the authorities of the navy thankful that the service is not wholly dependent on this state for men.

**JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS.**

The Imperturbable Minority Leader in the House.

(Collier's Weekly.)

John Sharp Williams, the new Democratic leader in the house of representatives, has one distinction above his colleagues. He is the only member of congress who was a schoolmate of the German emperor. They were together at Heidelberg. Williams is well known to it, but his friends will not, and he is pointed out from the galleries with such enthusiasm as if he were Pauline Duglow.

Williams is from Mississippi, a lawyer and cotton planter, and has been in congress for ten years. He is highly educated, speaks several languages, is somewhat of a wit, a good deal of a story-teller and can make a humorous speech if the occasion demands. These attributes make him popular with his fellows, and add to them are a wide knowledge of legislative methods, a keen mind, and an instant readiness in debate. He will be a good leader, for he keeps his temper. No assault can rattle Williams. He is calm and smiling through the bitterest passages with the Republicans. The leader who spatters and fumes is lost, for he cannot get his own people to follow him, to say nothing of making an impression on the other side.

Williams is a regular Democrat. He has followed the party through every device of get-together. His principal work in the congress will be to secure stronger Democrats on the big committee. The Democrats have been handicapped since the Republicans have had control of congress by lack of application by the minority members of the committee to the various pieces of work. He wants men on committees who will be able to discuss measures when they come on the floor and point out that of late years the Democrats in the house have been in the minority on committees as they should have been. He thinks the times are propitious for Democrats.

In defense of Admiral Schley in the Fifty-seventh congress, Williams was a severe assailant. "Oh, who is Crookshank, papa?" and read them in the course of his speech, the verses that for their refrain the statement that Rear Admiral Crookshank, who was chief of the bureau of navigation of the navy department during the war with Spain, and one of the most active in the anti-Schley propaganda, was "the greatest rat that ever snivled ashore." The house roared at the attack.

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**SOCIETY**

The only large event of the week so far was the 4 o'clock tea given yesterday by Mrs. J. B. Coggriff. The affair was most delightful and was enjoyed by about 100 friends of the hostess. The artistic home was arranged in fine effect with a wealth of flowers and beautiful plants. The hall was entirely in green, tall stately palms and rubber plants forming a beautiful vista leading to the dining room. A pyramid of palms and ferns hid an orchestra station at the foot of the stairs, and two tall trees graced either side of the doorway to the dining room. In the drawing room on the right of the entrance stood the hostess and her sister, Miss G. E. Coggriff, receiving their guests. This room was entirely in white and green. Tall white chrysanthemums and fragrant carnations filled the vases, and ferns added grace. In the music room beyond pink carnations were used, the colors blending admirably with the same tints in the conservatory opening to the south of this room. Across the hall the library was done in yellow chrysanthemums and asparagus plumosa. In the dining room red was the color carried out, tall vases of the hostess in many shades used most effectively. The polished table was covered with pieces of exquisite lace, a centerpiece of ivory almost covering the middle. On this a mirror held a tall cut glass vase of American Beauties and cut glass and silver brimmed hats. The hostess, Mrs. Thomas Kearns, poured coffee and Mrs. H. G. McMillan served ice. Assisting them were the Misses Hall, Miss Leta McMillan and Miss Leavelle served punch in the library and Mrs. Pearsall and Miss Halley assisted in entertaining the guests.

The marriage of Miss Olive Derbridge and Mr. A. H. Christensen took place yesterday at 1 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents. The ceremony was performed by Bishop Burton in the presence of a few friends, and immediately after the young couple left for California, where they will spend the coming month. They will be at home on their return in their new house on Capitol hill. Both the bride and groom have a host of friends in the city and the state who will wish them all happiness in their new home. The groom is a brother of D. H. Christensen, city superintendent of schools.

Miss Beatrice O'Connor entertained a number of her friends informally Monday evening.

Dr. and Mrs. Johnson and Miss Margaret Johnson gave an informal musicale at their home last evening.

Mrs. Ferdinand Dickert has issued invitations for the tea to be given next week from today for Miss Agatha Berkhoel.

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To Ogden Friday.

Via Oregon Short Line. Special train at 1 p. m. Special returning after the opera. Round trip \$1.

**GOOD GEM AND WAFFLE RECIPE.**

Two cups Falcon Self-Rising Pancake Flour, one cup milk, two eggs, one tablespoonful sugar, piece butter size of walnut. Mix the ingredients thoroughly before adding the flour. Get Falcon Self-Rising Pancake Flour at any grocer's.

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12-cent Picilla Skirt Waist holders, 10c  
12-cent Miller Toilet Pin Book ..... 8c  
8-cent Wire Hair Pins for ..... 7c  
10-cent Shoe Laces, best quality, for ..... 7c  
10-cent Ironing Wax, 2 for ..... 5c  
10-cent Curling Irons, 2 for ..... 5c  
10-cent Darning for ..... 5c  
10-cent Large Cube Pins for ..... 7c  
5-cent Hooks and Eyes 2 for ..... 5c  
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2-cent Thumbtacks for ..... 2c  
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